

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
29 September 2005 (29.09.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/091656 A1**

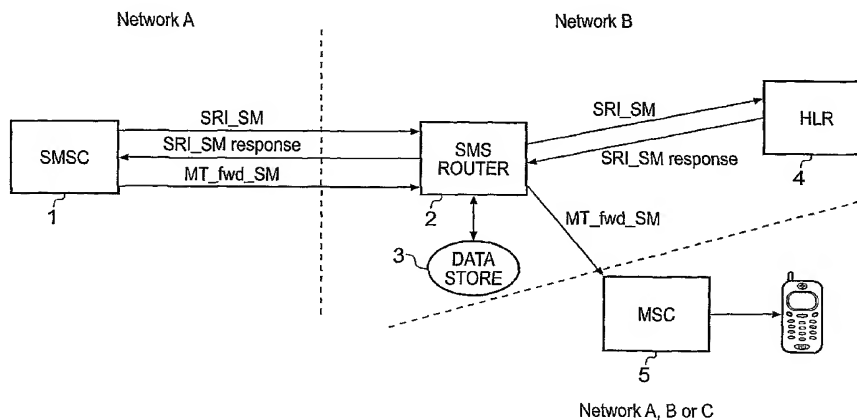
- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **H04Q 7/22**
- (21) International Application Number:  
PCT/GB2005/001045
- (22) International Filing Date: 18 March 2005 (18.03.2005)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
0406119.8 18 March 2004 (18.03.2004) GB
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published:**  
— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES APPARATUS AND METHODS



(57) **Abstract:** A telecommunications services apparatus, in a mobile telecommunications network, comprises means (2) for receiving a MAP Send Routing Information for Short Message (SRI\_SM message) originating from another network and operate to forward the SRI\_SM message to a home location register (4), means for receiving a response from the home location register (4) to the SRI\_SM message, means for temporarily storing information relating to the SRI\_SM response and operable to pass said response on to a network address identified as the originating address, and means for receiving a MAP Mobile Terminated Forward Short Message (MT\_Fwd\_SM message) from the other network and operable to correlate the MT\_Fwd\_SM message with a previously-sent SRI\_SM response using stored information. The apparatus is operable to detect and selectively reject MT\_Fwd\_SM messages for which there is at least insufficient correlation between the MT\_Fwd\_SM message and the previously-sent SRI\_SM response, and to pass other MT\_Fwd\_SM messages on to their respective destinations. The apparatus may include means for modifying IMSI information in the SRI\_SM response, which may be operable to store information relating to the modified SRI\_SM response and operable to pass the modified response on to the originating address network. In that case, the correlation determination may be made between the MT\_Fwd\_SM message and a previously-sent modified SRI\_SM response.



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